

**Claims**

1. Method of initiating services in a telecommunications network including at least one switching point (SSP) and at least two control points (SCP1, SCP2, SCP3) for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, in which method a service request is sent by the switching point (SSP) to the control point (SCP) in order to initiate a service, c h a r - a c t e r i z e d in that in the method

at least two control point addresses are set to which a service request can be sent and

a service request is sent to the control point addresses set one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

2. Method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the service request is sent to one address (SCP1) and when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address (SCP2), until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

3. Method according to claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that at least one control point (SCP1) provides the switching point (SSP) with congestion information,

the service request is sent to one address selected on the basis of the congestion information, and

when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

4. Method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the telecommunications network is an intelligent network and the addresses are set in the trigger data of IN-services.

5. Method according to claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a priority indication is attached to the addresses set and another address is selected on basis of the priority indication.

6. Method according to claim 2, 3, or 4, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the service request is sent to another address when the previous address does not respond.

7. Method according to claim 2, 3, or 4, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the service request is sent to another address when the previous address refuses to initiate the service.

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8. Method according to any one of claims 1 - 5, characterized in that the re-sending of the service request is controlled by a limit.

9. Method of initiating services in a telecommunications network including at least one switching point (SSP) and at least two control points (SCP1, SCP2, SCP3) for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, in which method a service request is sent by the switching point (SSP) to the control point (SCP) in order to initiate a service, and the switching point (SSP) has congestion information of at least one control point (SCP), characterized in that in the method

at least two control point addresses are set to which a service request can be sent and

a service request is sent to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information.

10. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the congestion information is sent by at least one control point (SCP1), which congestion information restricts the rate at which service requests are sent to this control point (SCP1).

11. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the congestion information is based on the number of service requests sent by the switching point (SSP) to the control point (SCP).

12. Method according to claim 10, characterized in that the address which still has free capacity according to the congestion information is selected.

13. Method according to claim 9, 10 or 11, characterized in that the address which has the least restricting congestion information is selected.

14. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the service request is sent to one address selected on the basis of the congestion information and

when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

15. Method according to claim 14, characterized in that

a maximum number for initiation attempts is set,

it is checked whether the service is initiated at the latest address,

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to send a service request to the set control point addresses one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

21. A telecommunications network including at least one switching point (SSP), at least two control points (SCP1, SCP2, SCP3) for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, in which network the switching point (SSP) sends a service request to the control point (SCP) in order to initiate a service and the switching point (SSP) has congestion information of at least one control point (SCP),

characterized in that

in the database, at least two control point addresses are stored to which a service request can be sent and

the switching point (SSP) is adapted to send a service request to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information.

22. A switching point for a telecommunications network including at least one switching point (SSP), at least two control points (SCP1, SCP2, SCP3) for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, in which network the switching point (SSP) sends a service request to the control point (SCP) in order to initiate a service and the switching point (SSP) has congestion information of at least one control point (SCP),

characterized in that the switching point (SSP) is adapted to receive a list of at least two control point addresses to which a service request can be sent and

to send a service request to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information.

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